

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:TPHDUNLOP:MD

APPROVED BY EUR/EE:NGANDREWS

DHEW:MKEFAUVER

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O 301740Z DEC 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 283146

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, RO

SUBJECT: DHEW/MIN HEALTH EXCHANGE (OLTEANU)

REFS: (A) BUCHAREST 5879; (B) BUCHAREST 5883;

(C) BUCHAREST 5840

1. DHEW UNDERSTANDS EMBASSY INTEREST IN EXCHANGE PROGRAM FOR DR. MIRCEA OLTEANU BUT REQUESTS DELAY IN HIS DEPARTURE UNTIL IT CAN BE DETERMINED WHETHER IN VIEW OF HIS DEFICIENT ENGLISH A WORTHWHILE PROGRAM CAN IN FACT BE DEVELOPED FOR HIM. FYI, DHEW EXPERIENCED VERY CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY IN PROGRAMING DR. IULIAN MINCU BECAUSE OF A LANGUAGE PROBLEM. DHEW'S EXISTING GOOD RELATIONS WITH HOST INSTITUTIONS COULD BE STRAINED BY FORCING ACCEPTANCE OF CANDIDATES WITH INSUFFICIENT ENGLISH. THIS WOULD OF COURSE NOT BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE EXCHANGE PROGRAM AS A WHOLE. DHEW THEREFORE MUST POSTPONE A DECISION RE OLTEANU UNTIL MINCU'S PROGRAM RESULTS CAN BE EVALUATED. END FYI.

2. ROMANIAN EMBASSY HERE (MITRAN) ENQUIRED DECEMBER 24 ABOUT OLTEANU PROGRAM AND WAS TOLD OLTEANU SHOULD NOT RPT NOT TAKE SHIP JANUARY 4 BECAUSE PROGRAM FOR HIM HAS NOT
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YET BEEN WORKED OUT. IN LIGHT OF FACT HE ONLY TOOK HIS

ENGLISH TEST DECEMBER 18 AND THAT THIS IS UNIVERSITY

HOLIDAY SEASON IN U.S., ROMANIANS SHOULD NOT FIND IT
DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND DHEW REQUIREMENT FOR MORE TIME
FOR ORDERLY PROGRAMING.

3. DHEW WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE EMBASSY EXPLAINING TO MIN.
HEALTH THAT ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT CANNOT RPT
CANNOT BE OVERLOOKED RE EXCHANGE NOMINEES. IT MAY IN
FACT REGRETTABLY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO DEVELOP A PRODUCTIVE
PROGRAM FOR OLTEANU. IN ANY EVENT, DECISION WHETHER TO
ACCEPT HIM MUST BE DELAYED UNTIL AFTER MINCU (ARRIVING
U.S. JANUARY 7) HAS BEEN HERE LONG ENOUGH TO DETERMINE
EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM THE LANGUAGE DEFICIENCY CAUSES HIS
HOSTS.

4. WOULD IT BE APPROPRIATE FOR EMBASSY TO SUGGEST THAT
OLTEANU UTILIZE NEXT FEW MONTHS TO TRY TO BRING HIS
ENGLISH UP TO SPEED?

5. A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EMBASSY BUCHAREST FROM ALL
HERE. SISCO

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